Smith has seen several generations of local residents visit **the** post office.

"Little kids are now adults with kids of their own," he said. "They ask, 'Are you still here?'"

When Smith, a Skamania County resident, was interviewed for **the** postal service job, **the** postmaster asked if he would be able to get to work during inclement weather.

"I've never missed any time at work because of **the** weather," Smith said.

He recalled a particular Christmas Eve morning in **the** mid 1980s, when six trees were blocking a road in Skamania County and there was freezing rain.

Smith drove home to get his chain saw and cut **the** trees.

That made him two hours late to work.

"I put my life on **the** line," Smith said. "I probably should have stayed home."

During his first two years with **the** USPS, he delivered mail along **the** downtown route. As a letter carrier, Smith never got bit by a dog, but he recalled another day in which **the** weather was freezing.

He wore a knit hat, with just his eyes, nose and mouth exposed. Smith realized what he was wearing just as he entered Heritage Bank (at **the** current U.S. Bank site), and he removed **the** hat in order not to create any security concerns.

A background of service

In 1967, Smith was drafted into **the** Army, where he served two years. His brother was in Vietnam, so Smith served in Germany.

After two years, he had an opportunity to re-enlist.

"I could see it was not going to be my career choice," Smith said.

"Serving in **the** military was a good life experience," he added. "Everything adds up in **the** big picture of life."